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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5358
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 4125
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2527
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1639
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1059
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2214
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 6343
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4533
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2555
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000776

SIPDIS

STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [EFIN](#) [CI](#)
SUBJECT: CHILE MEDIA REPORT - AUGUST 12

Lead Story

1. The holding company responsible for HidroAysen, the largest electricity generation project in the country, will launch a nationwide campaign on television, Internet, and radio to inform the public of the project (La Tercera, conservative, independent, 8/13).

Honduras

2. The USG was yesterday more specific on Honduras. Department of State spokesman Philip Crowley said the United States "fully supports" the OAS mission to Honduras, hoping it can "persuade the de facto regime to resign and allow ousted President Zelaya to end his term in office and to closely follow the steps outlined by the San Jose Agreement" (Government-owned La Nacion, 8/12).

3. President Zelaya's foreign ministry asked the Bachelet administration a few weeks ago to remove the accreditation of Honduran ambassador Francisco Martinez, who defended the Micheletti government and criticized OAS action in favor of Zelaya in an interview with a local newspaper. The Foreign Ministry has not acted on the request, although it has said that Chile does not recognize any Micheletti government official. Meanwhile, Zelaya's communications Minister said that the ousted President has plans to visit Bachelet shortly. Nor the Foreign Ministry or La Moneda have information about this visit (El Mercurio, conservative, independent, newspaper-of-record, 8/12).

Terrorism

4. Two explosive devices detonated yesterday in two different sports gyms in eastern Santiago. One device was located by the entrance of Sportslife in the area of Los Dominicos and the other by an empty pool of the Balthus gym in Vitacura. No one was injured. The first device detonated at 9:20 pm and the other an hour later. Both artifacts were manufactured with gun powder, a gas tank, and a clock detonator (El Mercurio, 8/12).

Narcotics

5. Local law enforcement agencies have seized 3.5 billion doses of cocaine this year. The statistics show that 80% of these drugs were seized in Chile's far north, from Arica to Tocopilla, therefore confirming that the northern border is the port of entry for hard drugs (El Mercurio, 8/12).

¶6. The Public Ministry has evidence that at least six leaders of the radical Mapuche organization Coordinadora Arauco Malleco (CAM) traveled individually to Colombia from 2005 to 2007 for periods of two to four months. One of them, under arrest for ambushing a prosecutor, entered Colombia from Bolivia using a forged passport. Intelligence sources said they received ideological and operations training with Colombia's FARC (El Mercurio, 8/12).

¶7. Based on immigration regulations, the Investigations Police (PDI) banned six foreigners - Spanish and French - from reentering Chile in a border crossing with Argentina. The individuals have ties to Askapena, the political arm of Basque terrorist organization ETA, and in July met with radical Mapuche leaders. They posted information about these meetings on their webpage (El Mercurio, 8/12).

Editorials

¶8. Editorial: "The support that Chile has given Colombia with regard to its agreement with the United States... contradicts Chile's principle of multilateral cooperation in the area of security.... In objective terms, Colombia is a net exporter of violence to the region... but the terms of the use of the military bases are not clear. In the recent past, the United States has demanded immunity for its contingent in those countries that are recipients of its military cooperation.... Given the human rights violations in Iraq and other parts of the world where the United States has had military participation, plus the fact that the U.S. is reluctant to acquire a legal commitment with international human rights treaties, it does not seem accurate to say that Colombia's decision is a sovereign decision or that it does not affect peace and relations in the region" (El Mostrador, 8/12).

¶9. Editorial: "There have been doubts and questions about Unasur since its creation last year.... President Bachelet contributed to the organization acting as a moderator and preventing the organization from turning into the echo chamber of hotheaded leaders in the region... and her efforts paid off at the Summit of the Americas when Obama explicitly acknowledged Unasur as an interlocutor. But the organization is far from being consolidated... and what just happened in Quito... only strengthens the doubts that have existed about the organization since its onset" (Conservative, afternoon daily La Segunda, 8/11).

¶10. Editorial: " The Unasur meeting in Quito did not include in its final resolution... the use of Colombia's bases by U.S. Armed Forces.... It's not easy to find a solution to the sense of mistrust and suspicion that this issue has created.... In this context, Brazil has presented an audacious proposal: That President Obama himself clarify questions about the agreement with Colombia.... Chile's role is to support Brazil... because although Bachelet's policy has been to respect other country's sovereignty, it is no less true that she shares Lula's uneasiness with regard to the geopolitical impact of such a significant increase of U.S. military presence in the subcontinent.... As Lula said in Quito, the region must be at peace to recover lost time and to develop, but the presence of foreign forces does not contribute to that purpose" (La Nacion, 8/12).

SIMONS